05-048

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SUMMARY BIOLOGY REPORT

Biological Resources, Project Impacts, and Mitigation TM 5518, Environmental Log No. 06-14-046 Valle de Oro

Summary

The TM 5518 project consists of the subdivision of APN 517-020-90 and -91 into a total of seven legal lots, to be developed with single-family homes. Each lot will be approximately one-half acre in size, with the TM 5518 total project site equaling approximately 3.57 acres. Disturbed Habitat covers most of the site, which is surrounded by development in the form of roads and single-family homes. A single family home under construction is located on proposed lot 7.

Implementation of the TM 5518 project would result in the entire site being impacted due to grading for pad construction, fire clearing, etc. No mitigation for impacts to Disturbed Habitat will be necessary. However, an avian nesting survey and/or seasonal restrictions on site development are recommended to ensure project consistency with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code.

Introduction, Project Description, Location, and Setting

The TM 5518 project proposes the subdivision of approximately 3.57 acres of mostly vacant land (APN 517-020-90 and -91) into seven new legal lots to be developed with single-family homes, one of which (proposed lot 7 on APN 517-020-91) supports a single-family home under construction.

The TM 5518 project site is located at the intersection of Hillsdale Road and Donahue Drive in the Valle de Oro Community Planning Area of unincorporated San Diego County. The project site is completely surrounded by development, in the form of single-family homes, and thus clearly qualifies as an "infill" property. The site itself supports 100% non-native vegetation and disturbed or developed habitat.

Julia Groebner, Associate Biologist, conducted a field survey of the site on February 14, 2007, from approximately 11:30 to 13:45. Weather conditions were conducive to site surveying, with clear skies, temperatures in the high 60°s to low 70°s, and a light westerly breeze. A preliminary biology reconnaissance of this site had been completed by the author in March of 2006. The purpose of this current (2007) survey was to identify the site's flora and fauna (Table 1), the onsite habitat-types, potential project impacts, and mitigation, if required. All project impacts, including any fuel modification, will be restricted to the TM 5518 project site.

Habitats/Vegetation Communities

The following two habitats/plant communities are found in association with the TM 5518 project site:

Disturbed Habitat (Holland Code 11300) - 3.12 acres

The APN 517-020-90 property supports Disturbed Habitat (DH) in the form of a barren field that is regularly mowed and is dissected by a series of dirt roads. This habitat-type is characterized by a sparse cover of weedy species such as Russian Thistle (Salsola pestifer), Perennial Mustard (Brassica geniculata), Foxtail Brome (Bromus rubens), Stork's-bill (Erodium spp.), and Doveweed (Eremocarpus setigerus). Several areas of the property support dense thickets of Russian Thistle. Native shrubs such as Broom Baccharis (Baccharis sarothroides) and Flat-top Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum) are occasional in the DH, and grasses constitute less than 10 percent of the site's cover. Disturbed Habitat is a Tier IV habitat-type in San Diego County as defined by the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). The areas mapped as DH have no biological value.

<u>Urban/Developed</u> (Holland Code 12000) - 0.45 acre

Development is present on the APN 517-020-91 property in the form of a single family home that is currently under construction. Development is also present on properties to the north, west, and south of the project site. These areas are mostly vegetated with landscape plantings. Hillsdale Road and Donahue Drive, which are paved public roads, form the northern and eastern edges of the property, respectively. Urban/Developed Habitat is a Tier IV habitat-type in San Diego County as defined by the BMO. The areas mapped as Urban/Developed have no biological value.

Special Status Species

Red-shouldered Hawk was the only sensitive animal species detected onsite and no sensitive plant species were found onsite.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

Listing: "Blue List" (Tate, 1986)

County status: San Diego County "Sensitive Bird" List (DPLU, 1995)

State status: California "Fully Protected" Species (CDFG Code Sections 3511, 4700, 5050 & 5515)

Federal status: Protected Raptor (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), as amended

Distribution: Central and southern California west of the Sierras. Also Mexico, southeastern Canada, and the eastern United States.

Habitat(s): Roost and nest in a variety of woodland habitats: eucalyptus woodlands, oak groves, open riparian forests, and related broken wooded areas.

Status on Site: One specimen was seen soaring over the site and adjoining lands during the field survey.

Comments: Population numbers of this species in Southern California seem to have changed little over the last century, although other areas within the species' range have experienced significant population declines.

No other sensitive species were detected during the survey. Various wide-ranging sensitive species, such as Turkey Vulture, several species of bats, etc. might be expected onsite, given its open nature, although surrounding land-uses would preclude the occurrence of any highly sensitive species, such as Golden Eagle or Prairie Falcon. No state or federally listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species would be anticipated onsite, and no critical or highly sensitive populations of any species would be anticipated. Sensitive species known from the vicinity, along with an assessment of the probability of occurrence onsite, are presented in Table 2.

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waterways

Wetlands and jurisdictional "waters" are not present on the project site. The site does not support hydrophytes, hydric soils, or wetlands hydrology. Furthermore, we saw no drainages that support a "bed-and-bank", an ordinary high water mark (OHWM), or any other signs of jurisdictional wetlands or "waters".

Other Unique Features/Resources

Because of the TM 5518 project site's location (in the midst of development), small size, and disturbed nature it lacks unique features or resources that would enhance its biological significance. At the most, the DH onsite might be expected to provide limited open foraging habitat for local species that are tolerant of urbanization.

Significance of Project Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

The subdivision and subsequent development of the TM 5518 project site is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County's Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). This means that the County requires that all project-related impacts to the site's flora, fauna, and habitats be assessed, and that mitigation be provided in the instance that impacts are considered "significant" as defined by CEQA. Mitigation is designed to reduce the effects of development, keeping all impacts at a level that is "less than significant".

Direct and Indirect Impacts

Future development of the subject site could result in the following direct and indirect impacts:

- A loss of 3.12 acres of DH. Impacts to DH are considered "less than significant" and do not require mitigation.
- Potential displacement impacts to nesting raptors or migratory songbirds are considered "significant", as defined by CEQA. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Sections

3503, 3503.5 and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code protect the nests of essentially all native birds. Although no active bird nests or nesting behaviors were detected during the site survey, nesting in some of the trees or larger shrubs adjacent to the site is possible. Any disturbance, either direct or indirect, that would cause abandonment of active nests containing eggs or young would be a violation of the MBTA and/or the California Fish and Game Code.

Cumulative Impacts

Due to the "infill" nature of the project site, its small size, and its history of disturbance, the TM 5518 project will not have cumulatively considerable impacts when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects affecting the same resource.

Proposed Mitigation

As discussed above, no specific mitigation for impacts to DH is required. However, in order to ensure that the project is consistent with the requirements of the MBTA and the California Fish and Game Code, site brushing, grading, and/or the removal of vegetation within 300 feet of any potential migratory songbird nesting location will not be permitted during the spring/summer songbird breeding season, defined as from 15 February to 31 August of each year. Limiting activities to the non-breeding season will minimize chances for the incidental take of migratory songbirds or raptors.

Should it be necessary to conduct brushing, grading, or other habitat-removal activities during the bird breeding season, a preconstruction nesting survey of all areas within 300 feet of the proposed activity will be required. The results of the survey will be provided in a report to the Director, Department of Planning and Land Use and the Wildlife Agencies for concurrence with the conclusions and recommendations.

Bibliography/References

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Preparer and Persons/Organizations Contacted

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Attachments

Table 1: Flora and Fauna Detected

Table 2: Sensitive Species Known from the Vicinity

Figure 1: Regional Location

Figure 2: Biological Resources Map

Figure 3: Aerial Photo

Figure 4: Site Photos

Table 1. Flora and Fauna Detected - TM 5518

Scientific Name

Artemisia californica

Avena sp. *

Plants

Baccharis sarothroides Brassica geniculata *

Brassica sp. * Bromus mollis * Bromus diandrus * Bromus rubens * Carpobrotus edule *

Chamaesyce polycarpa Chenopodium murale *

Chrysanthemum sp. * Conyza canadensis * Cortaderia sp. * Cynodon dactylon * Eremocarpus setigerus

Eriogonum fasciculatum Erodium botrys * Erodium cicutarium * Eucalyptus sp. *

Gazenia sp. *

Haplopappus squarrosus Hedypnois cretica * Heterotheca grandiflora * Isocoma menziesii Lactuca serriola *

Lotus scoparius Marrubium vulgare * Nicotiana glauca *

Pennisetum setaceum * Poa annua *

Raphanus sativus * Salsola pestifer * Schinus molle *

Schismus barbatus * Stephanomeria virgata

Birds

Archilochus anna Buteo lineatus Pipilo crissalis Psaltriparus minimus

Sayornis saya

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Mammals

Canis latrans

Sylvilagus audubonii Thomomys bottae

Reptiles

Uta stansburiana

Common Name

California Sagebrush

Wild Oat

Broom Baccharis Perennial Mustard

Mustard Soft Brome Ripgut Brome Foxtail Brome **Hottentot Fig**

Small-seed Sand Mat

Goosefoot Chrysanthemum Common Horseweed **Pampas Grass** Bermuda Grass Dove Weed

Flat-top Buckwheat Long-beaked Stork's-bill Red-stem Stork's-bill

Eucalyptus Gazenia Hazardia Hedypnois Telegraph Weed Goldenbush Wild Lettuce Deerweed Horehound Tree Tobacco

African Fountain Grass Annual Bluegrass Wild Radish Russian Thistle Peruvian Peppertree

Schismus Stephanomeria

Anna's Hummingbird Red-shouldered Hawk California Towhee

Bushtit Say's Phoebe

White-crowned Sparrow

Covote

Desert Cottontail Rabbit Valley Pocket Gopher

Side-blotched Lizard

Table 2. Sensitive Species Known from the Vicinity - TM 5518

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federally Endangered	Federally Threatened	State Endangered	Coastal Sage Scrub	Mixed Chaparral	Grassland	Riparian	Oak Woodland	Chamise Chaparral	Mixed Conifer	Closed Cone Forest	Piñon-Juniper	Freshwater Marsh	Desert Scrub	Desert Wash	Salt or Alkali Marsh	Vernal Pools	Montane Meadow	Coastal or Desert Dune	Lakes and Bays	Probability of Occurrence	Factual Basis for Determination
Acanthomintha ilicifolia	San Diego Thornmint		1	✓	1		1	T	П	1							T	1				L	1a
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk						✓	~	1													M	2a
Achnantherum diegoense	San Diego needlegrass				✓		✓:										1				\neg	L :	1b
Ambrosia pumila	San Diego Ambrosia	1			\		✓	1	T									1				L	1a
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper sparrow						✓															L	1a
Anniella pulchra pulchra	Silvery legless lizard				✓		V	✓						1						1			1a
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat				✓	✓	1	~	1	1	~	~	1		1	1			1		$\overline{}$		2a
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle				✓	✓	V		~	~	1	1	1									-	1a
Ardea herodias	Great blue heron						1		T					1									1a
Athene cunicularia hypugea	Burrowing owl				✓		1					\neg				1				1		L	
Brodiaea orcuttii	Orcutt's brodiaea						V	~	1	1								1				\rightarrow	1a
Buteo lineatus	Red-shouldered hawk						✓								1							o	
Cathartes aura	Turkey vulture	Π			✓	✓	✓	1	~	1	1	7										М	2a
Chaetodipus californicus femoralis	Dulzura California pocket mouse				✓	✓	✓		1	~	~											L	1a
Circus cyaneus hudsonius	Northern harrier						1							1			√					L	1a
Cnemidophorus hyperythrus	Orange-throated whiptail				1	✓	✓	1		~												М	2a
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat					✓	✓	✓	1	~	✓	✓	1		1	1			1			M	2a
Danaus plexippus	Monarch butterfly						✓		1										1			M	2a
Elanus caeruleus	Black-shouldered kite						✓	✓														M	1a
Eremophila alpestris actis	Horned lark						✓												1			M	2a
Eumops perotis californicus	Greater western mastiff bat				1	V	✓	~	~	~	√	~	1	V	1	V	1	1	1		1	M	2a
Euphydryas editha quino	Quino checkerspot butterfly	1			1		✓			~					1			1				L	1a
Holocarpha virgata elongata	Graceful tarplant						1															L	1a
Lanius ludovicianus	Loggerhead shrike				1		✓	1	✓						V	V						M	2a
Lepus californicus bennettii	San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit				V	1	1		1	~	✓	~										L	1a
Muilla clevelandii	San Diego goldenstar	Γ	Π		1		1			✓								1				L	
Myotis yumanensis	Yuma myotis	Γ			1	1	✓	√	1	~	1	✓	✓	√			√	1	~		1	М	
Nyctinomops macrotis	Big free-tailed bat	Γ			1	1	✓	√	~	~	√	✓	V	1	V	1	1	1	1			М	
Nyctinomops femorosaccus	Pocketed free-tailed bat				1	1	✓	1	1	1	1	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			М	
Odocoileus hemionus	Southern mule deer				1	1	✓	1	1	~	1	✓	V		1	1			1			L	_
Onychomys torridus ramona	Southern grasshopper mouse				1	1	✓			✓												L	
Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei	San Diego horned lizard				1	1	1	1		✓	1											L	
Scaphiopus hammondii	Western spadefoot toad	Π			1	1	1	V	✓	✓				✓				1				L	
Taxidea taxus	American badger	Π	T		1	1	1		✓	✓	1		1		1	1			✓		-	L	

Probability of Occurrence Codes:

L – Low Probability; rare species in area; M – Moderate Probability; H – High Probability; O – Observed; see text for detailed discussion.

Factual Basis for Determination:

- 1a no significant habitat (animal or plant); 1b distinctive perennial that would not have been missed if present onsite (plant)
- 2a could be expected to occur onsite on at least an occasional basis, based on habitat quality (animal); 2b could occur onsite, but very rare, and/or poorly known (plant)
- 3a nearly certain to occur onsite on a regular basis (animals), but cryptic; 3b ephemeral species known from the immediate vicinity, but seasonal in occurrence (plant)

Figure 1. Regional Location - TM 5518 Portion of U.S.G.S. "El Cajon, California" 7.5' Quadrangle

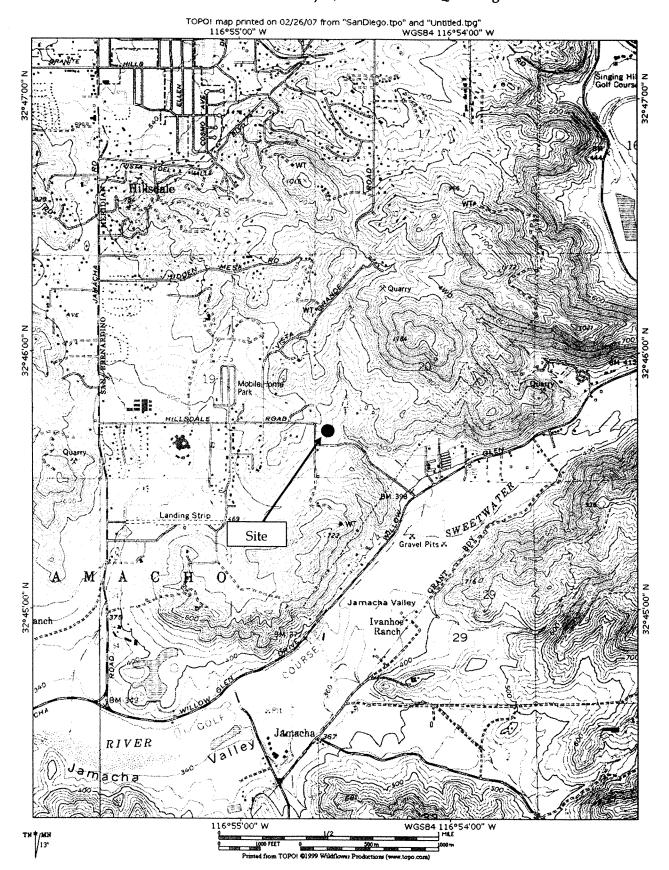


Figure 2. Biological Resources Map - TM 5518

(also see 40'-scale exhibit, copy attached)

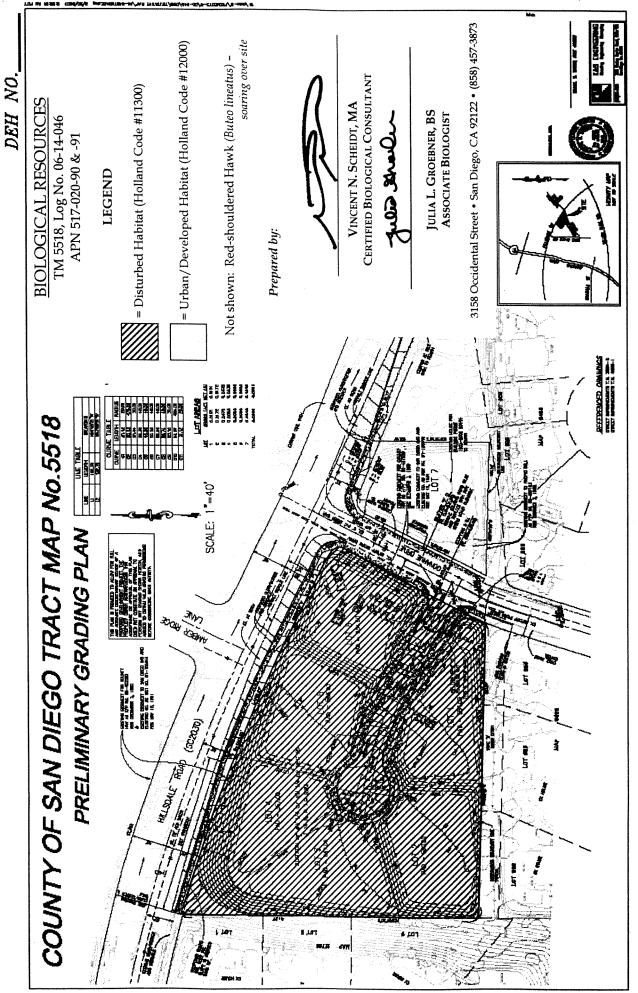


Figure 3. Aerial Photo - TM 5518

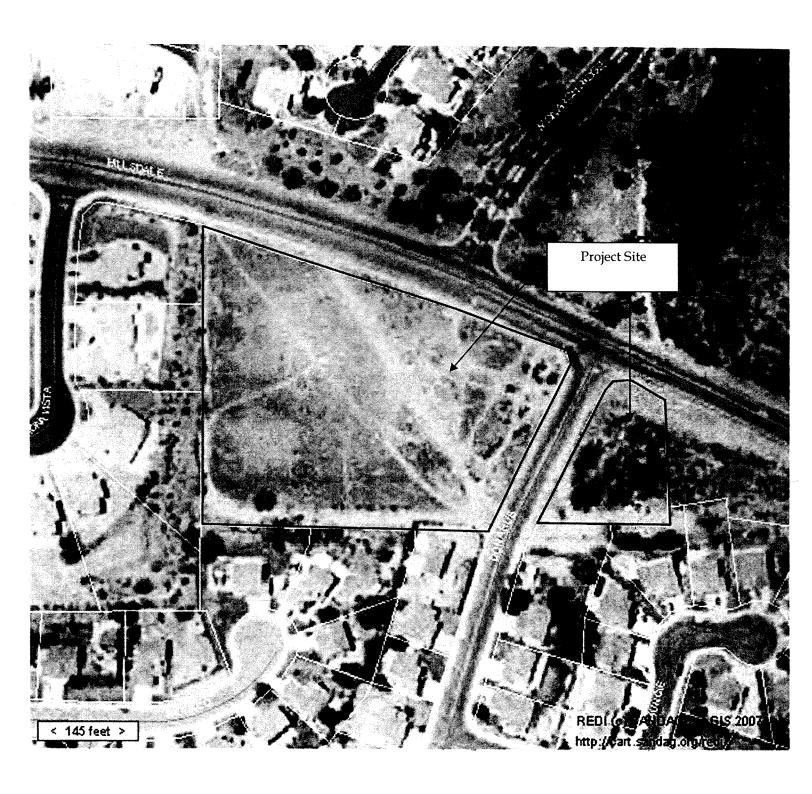




Photo 1. View across the site from the western portion looking east. Note predominance of weedy species and lack of annual/perennial grasses. Species most evident in this image include Russian Thistle (blue arrows) and Perennial Mustard (red arrows)



Photo 2. View across the site from the northeast portion looking west. Note predominance of weedy species and lack of annual/perennial grasses. Species most evident in this image include Russian Thistle (blue arrows) and Perennial Mustard (red arrows). Single small Broom Baccharis in foreground (green arrow).

